

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-18

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FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3262

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

UNCLAS JOHANNESBURG 0473

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, SF

SUBJ: MARKET RESEARCH SURVEY INDICATES MANY BUSINESSMEN FAVOR
INTEGRATED UNIONS FOR BLACK AND WHITE WORKERS.

1. BUSINESS TIMES SECTION OF MAY 12 SUNDAY TIMES CARRIED FOLLOWING
STORY UNDER HEADLINE "BRING IN THE UNIONS: THAT'S WHAT BUSINESS
MEN WANT".

QUOTE MOST OF SOUTH AFRICA'S BUSINESS MEN WANT INTEGRATED BLACK
AND WHITE TRADE UNIONS.

QTE THIS UNPRECEDENTED FINDING--WHICH IS DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSED TO
GOVERNMENT POLICY--COMES FROM THIS MONTH'S SUNDAY TIMES QUARTERLY
REVIEW OF THE BUSINESS MOOD, CARRIED OUT BY MARKET RESEARCH AFRICA
(PTY.).

QTE THE MRA SURVEY IS A STATISTICALLY REPRESENTATIVE PICTURE OF
THE FEELINGS OF BUSINESS MEN THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY OF ALL
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POLITICAL PERSUASIONS.

QTE IT SHOWS THE DESIRE BY INDUSTRIALISTS, FINANCIERS, AND ENTREPRENEURS TO BREAK UP SOUTH AFRICA'S TRADITIONAL LABOUR PRACTICES.

QTE FIFTY-ONE PERCENT OF ALL BUSINESS MEN (MANUFACTURERS AND NON-MANUFACTURERS) FAVOUR THE FORMATION OF INTEGRATED BLACK AND WHITE TRADE UNIONS WHILE MORE THAN A QUARTER WOULD PREFER SEPARATE TRADE UNIONS FOR BLACK WORKERS.

QTE THIS MEANS THAT MORE THAN THREE-QUARTERS OF ALL THE COUNTRY'S BUSINESS MEN HAVE COME OUT WITH A POSITIVE VOTE FOR SOME KIND OF TRADE UNION REPRESENTATION FOR BLACKS.

QTE INTERESTINGLY, THOSE BUSINESS MEN WHO STAND TO BE AFFECTED MOST BY ORGANISED BLACK WORKERS--THE INDUSTRIALISTS--HAVE COME OUT MORE STRONGLY THAN NON-MANUFACTURERS (BY 55 PERCENT AS OPPOSED TO 45 PER CENT) FOR INTEGRATED NON-RACIAL UNIONS.

QTE MORE NON-MANUFACTURERS (30 PER CENT) THAN MANUFACTURERS (UNDER A QUARTER) FAVOUR SEPARATE UNIONS FOR BLACK WORKERS.

QTE ONLY ONE-TENTH OF ALL BUSINESS MEN WOULD LIKE TO SEE BLACK TRADE UNIONS BARRED, WHILE A FURTHER 12 PER CENT "DON'T KNOW" OR DID NOT ANSWER THE QUESTION.

QTE TO TEST HOW WIDELY THE GOVERNMENT'S LABOUR COMMITTEE SYSTEM FOR BLACKS HAD BEEN INTRODUCED, BUSINESS MEN WERE ASKED THEIR VIEW ON ITS OPERATION.

QTE THE MAJORITY--MORE THAN 60 PER CENT--OF MANUFACTURERS AND NON-MANUFACTURERS SAID THEIR FIRMS DID NOT OPERATE EITHER A WORKS OR LIAISON COMMITTEE. THIS APPLIED TO 81 PER CENT OF NON-MANUFACTURERS AND TO HALF OF MANUFACTURERS.

QTE FIFTEEN PER CENT OF MANUFACTURERS AND UNDER 5 PER CENT OF NON-MANUFACTURERS OPERATE A WORKS COMMITTEE. THESE FIGURES RISE TO 27 AND 13 PERCENT RESPECTIVELY FOR LIAISON COMMITTEES.

QTE ONLY 8 PER CENT OF MANUFACTURERS, AND UNDER 2 PER CENT OF UNCLASSIFIED

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NON-MANUFACTURERS HAVE BOTH COMMITTEES OPERATING AT THEIR FIRMS.

QTE EIGHTY-FOUR PER CENT OF ALL FIRMS WHICH DO NOT ALREADY HAVE THESE COMMITTEES DO NOT PLAN TO INTRODUCE EITHER.

QTE ONCE AGAIN MORE NON-MANUFACTURERS THAN MANUFACTURERS INDICATED THEIR LACK OF INTEREST IN LABOUR MATTERS.

QTE OF THE BALANCE 6 PER CENT PLAN TO INTRODUCE WORKS COMMITTEES,
AND 10 PER CENT LIAISON COMMITTEES.

QTE FORTY-THREE PER CENT OF ALL BUSINESS MEN SEE THESE COMMITTEES
AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO BLACK TRADE UNIONS; MORE THAN A THIRD SEE
THEM AS A STEPPING STONE TO BLACK TRADE UNIONS.

QTE MORE THAN ONE-FIFTH OF BUSINESS MEN DID NOT KNOW OR DID NOT
ANSWER THIS PARTICULAR QUESTION. UNQTE.

2. COMMENT: WHILE THERE IS SOME QUESTION ABOUT EXTENT TO WHICH
MARKET RESEARCH SAMPLING OF BUSINESS OPINION ACCURATELY MEASURES
OR REPRESENTS NATIONAL CONSENSUS, MISSION OFFICERS IN POSITION
TO VOUCH FIRST-HAND FOR FACT THAT INCREASING NUMBER OF BUSINESSMEN
HAVE BEEN ARRIVING AT CONCLUSION (HOWEVER RELUCTANTLY) THAT THERE
IS PROBABLY NO WORKABLE ALTERNATIVE TO TRADE UNION RIGHTS FOR BLACK
WORKERS AS MEANS OF IMPROVING EMPLOYER-EMPLOYEE COMMUNICATIONS.
DEGRACE

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